

# ST. PATRICK PARISH

118 SOUTH BROADWAY  
LAWRENCE, MASSACHUSETTS 01843-1427

1 April 2014

The Honorable Douglas H. Wilkins  
Lawrence Superior Court  
43 Appleton Street  
Lawrence, MA 01840

Dear Judge Wilkins:

I write regarding Mr. Leonard J. Degnan, who will be sentenced in your court on 3 April 2014. I have been Mr. Degnan's pastor since 2001. I have come to know him both as a member of my faith community and as the nephew who offered compassionate care for many years to his uncle, Father James Degnan, a senior priest who served at Saint Patrick Parish until his death in February 2013.

I have witnessed in Leonard Degnan an abundance of gifts: faith, sincerity, compassion, dedication, and sacrificial service. I believe Mr. Degnan has made valuable contributions to our society through his outreach to people in need, his professional life, and his care for his family. I hope these realities might be taken into consideration as you determine Mr. Degnan's sentence.

I also hope you will consider seriously Mr. Degnan's continuing responsibilities for his family, especially for his sixteen year old son. Mr. Degnan's son has needs that require close attention from his father, and Mr. Degnan has been a model parent in lovingly caring for those needs.

I respect the tremendous responsibility you have in rendering a sentence for Leonard Degnan. In doing so, I appreciate your consideration of the breadth of his character, and am thankful for the mercy you may extend to him.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Paul B. O'Brien", with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

Reverend Paul B. O'Brien  
Pastor